



Why Breed?

Like the Greek philosopher Diogenes, searching all day with a lighted lantern for an honest person, the search for a rational, ethical reason for creating one more human today goes on without success.

Ask someone why they plan to create another of themselves, and they'll most likely offer one of the reasons listed in the chart below. Their real reasons are given in the middle, and alternatives to breeding for those reasons are given to the right.

Reasons given	Real reasons	Suggested Alternatives
I can't help it; it's a biological urge.	Unexamined motivations.	Institutions await those who can't control their biological urges.
Want to give our parents grandchildren.	Still seeking parental approval.	Live your own life and encourage your parents to do the same.
I just love children.	Out of touch with inner child, and with existing children.	Adopt, step, and foster parenting. Big Brother/Sister. Work with children, teach.
I have superior human genes.	Doesn't recognize an oxymoron. Megalomania.	Do great things with your genes, rather than expecting the next cultured batch to do it.
Need help on farm or in family business.	Too cheap to hire help. Child labor laws inconvenient.	Mechanization gives faster return on investment.
Want someone to care for me in my old age.	Fear of aging. Exploitative personality.	Save money and prepare for retirement. Be nice to people so they will visit you in the home.
Pregnancy and childbirth are life experiences.	Life choices limited by social indoctrination.	Rent pregnancy simulator. Choose different life experiences.
A good family is essential to career advancement and strong standing in the community.	Social insecurity. Wants trophy children to improve social status.	Rent children from talent agency on special occasions. Have white picket fence installed.
We want to create a life that embodies our love for each other.	Ego, times two, minus imagination, equals three plus.	Garden. Adopt a stream, trail, or highway. Rescue animals. Protect & restore ecosystems to embody love.
I want my kids (who don't exist yet) to have all the things I didn't have.	Unfulfilled childhood desires and fantasies.	Deal with regrets & make best of life. Provide for existing children.
To carry on family name.	Trying to please Dad. Duped by bloodline superstition.	Create something enduring & give it family name. Donate blood to pass on bloodline.
Want to see a little me.	Self-absorption. Lack of ego gratification.	Order custom-made, life-like doll. Create a gratifying life of your own.
God wants us to.	Mindless obedience to dogma peddlers who want larger flocks.	Seek true nature of God, whatever you perceive God to be.
My wife/husband wants a baby.	Giving in out of fear of losing partner.	Communicate true desires. Spouse may feel you're the one who wants to breed. Rent baby simulator doll.
Want a child with our bloodline.	Ego extension. Racial identity.	Recognize value of people with different genetic make-ups.
It's a spiritual thing for me.	Other reasons too easily refuted.	Find truly spiritual experiences.
I've always wanted to have children; it's what people do.	Unquestioned cultural conditioning.	Communicate to strengthen relationship. Attend retreats for bonding couples.
I love babies.	Shortsighted view of reality.	Babies soon turn into children, who turn into adults. Infant care work is available.

Continued on other side 